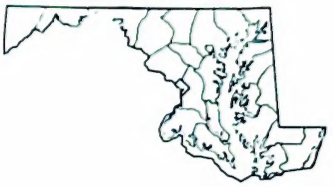
The Maryland Yellowthroat



A Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc. Vol. 3, No. 3 MAY/JUNE 1983

President's Comments

As I approach the end of my third and final year as president, I hope you will allow me a small amount of bragging. I think the MOS has a renewed sense of purpose and momentum, thanks to things like the revitalized spirit of the sanctuary organization kindled by George Kramer and nurtured and enlarged by Ben Poscover. Also the *Yellowthroat* which, fledged by Dan Boone and currently edited by Cam Lewis, has given the chapters a means of communication and helped to draw them together into a cohesive organization. There is also the current statewide Breeding Bird Atlas, which was the inspiration of Danny Bystrak. This is shaping up to be the greatest extravaganza Maryland has ever seen and it promises to provide us with dedicated birding opportunities for the next five years. Everybody has the spirit; Lee Meinersmann accomplished a major revision of the bylaws, and Mildred Gebhard added another scholarship to her list. There are also two new committees, the Records Committee and the Eagle Committee. These are just some of the things that have been happening.

I don't for a minute claim credit for any of these activities, except for having encouraged them when they appeared, but I am proud that they occurred during my stint as president. The MOS is a great organization because the basic attraction is sound, and it continues to thrive because of the large number of dedicated people who keep it functioning smoothly. I am proud to pass it on to President-elect Marty Chestem. She is a very widely travelled and competent birder, and I am confident that she will carry on the birding traditions of the MOS.

I have one sad note to mention. Gordon MacGregor, who served the MOS faithfully and meticulously as president of the Baltimore Chapter and as treasurer for the State MOS for the past 10 years, died this week. He was one of the great people that I mentioned who keep the MOS running and we will sorely miss him.

John Cullom, President
March 29, 1983

Ornithology Scholarship Winners

Through the generosity of MOS officers and members of the Board of Directors, a second scholarship for attendance at an ornithology workshop has been made available this year. Nineteen eighty-three marks the 25th anniversary of Helen Miller's death and the beginning of the MOS tradition of awarding scholarships for the training of youth leaders in nature study. This second scholarship enables us to honor both of the founders of our scholarship program (see article, "25 Years of Anonymity") and is to be known as the Eleanor C. Robbins scholarship.

There were nine applicants this year for our ornithology scholarships. Paul Ford, an undergraduate student at the University of Maryland, with a strong interest in birds, and a deep commitment to the reestablishment of the Eastern Bluebird, is this year's winner of the Chandler S. Robbins scholarship.

Rick Holt, a Maryland State Park ranger ("Ranger Rick") with a special interest in birds, and a continuous involvement in conducting bird-oriented programs in our parks and in the community, is the winner of the Eleanor C. Robbins scholarship.

Both young men have chosen to attend a workshop in ornithology offered by the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University. They are excellent candidates, and we are proud to honor them.

-The MOS Scholarship Committee

MOS Board of Directors

The MOS Board of Directors met at Adventure Sanctuary on March 5. Some notes from that meeting:

- Our Acting Treasurer, Roger Herriott, gave a fine report on the financial status of the Society.
- Vice-President Tony White has finalized plans for our convention and annual meeting. Look for your brochure in the mail very soon, and mark May 13-15 on the calendar for this outstanding event.

—see page 2

MOS Nominees for 1983-84

John G. Malcolm, chairman of the Nominating Committee, announces the following candidates for state MOS offices:

President: Martha "Marty" Chestem, from the Howard Co. chapter. Marty has held several county offices, including chapter president, and was First Vice-President of MOS for three years. Marty is retired from U.S. Government service and has been a member of MOS since 1968.

Vice-President: CDR Anthony "Tony" White, Montgomery Co. chapter. Tony is retired from the U.S. Navy and, in the past, served as president of the Anne Arundel chapter. He is presently First Vice-President of State MOS, a position which will be changed to simply v.p. under the revised Bylaws. Tony has been a member of MOS for 15 years.

Treasurer: Richard "Dick" Cleveland, a project manager for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Dick is a member of the Montgomery Co. chapter and has been a member of MOS for ten years.

Secretary: Helen Ford, who has been Secretary for ten years, is in the Anne Arundel chapter. She held several offices in the chapter and is employed as a program analyst for the Naval Ship Research and Development Center. Helen has been in MOS for 18 years.

W. GORDON MacGREGOR

W. Gordon MacGregor died on March 27, 1983. Mac had been active in the MOS for a number of years, as president of the Baltimore Chapter from 1971-1973, and as treasurer of the state organization for the last ten years. Mac and Bertie, and often a grandson, were common participants on birdwalks, and he will be missed by his many birding friends.

Editorial

The feverish activities of advancing spring are almost upon us, including the May Count, May 7 (article nearby), and the annual MOS Convention, May 13-15 in Delmar.

A feature of the convention this year will be workshops on techniques recommended for use in the Atlas Project, the Maryland/D.C. Breeding Bird Census. Many training meetings for volunteers for the Atlas effort are being held around the state. Your ed. attended such a meeting in Hagerstown, March 13, which was addressed by Chan Robbins. Chan narrated the history of Atlas-type efforts in Europe and the U.S., including the MD Montgomery/Howard Co. work of 1973-74. A very complete packet of instructional materials was handed out, and many useful tips were given on recognizing nesting behavior. Resource items, some of them books on completed Atlases in Europe, were on hand. Audience response was enthusiastic, and many signed up on the spot for "blocks" to survey. I'm looking forward to the further training scheduled at the convention.

We have not published a detailed report on the MOS sanctuaries for some time, but many of you will have had first-hand experience in one or more of the workdays which are scheduled in April, at Irish Grove and Carey Run, or Mill Creek on May 1. I hope to hear some in-depth reporting on these events and publish same!

A notice relative to poisoning hazards to the peregrine falcons in Baltimore is included in this issue.

We also have the report of the Nominating Committee on candidates for officers for the MOS for 1983-84. I want to express my great appreciation to John Cullom and the other past officers for their assistance and support to *The Yellowthroat.*

—Cameron Lewis

1983 State-Wide May Count

This year's May Count will be held on Saturday, May 7. Unlike Christmas Counts, which are held in circumscribed areas, the May Count is a free-for-all with the entire state as the area to be covered. You can count all day, or any part of the day. Sit and watch the birds in your yard, walk through your favorite woods, or hop in the car and travel the length of the state. Keep species and individuals totals as well as miles on foot, hours on foot, miles by car and hours by car (or horseback, bike, boat, etc.).

May Counts are compiled on a county basis. Keep a separate list for each county you are in. Some counties are highly organized with a coordinator making sure that coverage is spread out and that the same area is not covered by more than one group; please contact your county coordinator *before* the May Count. Send your results to your county coordinator as soon as possible. Some counties have a Tally Rally at the end of the day to compile results.

Each year a few counties have strong participation and detailed coverage, but a few counties seem to be consistently in need of extra help, or are not visited by anyone! Why not explore a new part of the state and help the coverage in: Harford; Carroll; Cecil; St. Mary's; Queen Annes; or Calvert County. Contact one of these county coordinators!

It is not too early to begin gathering information for the Breeding Bird Atlas. By this date chickadees may have young in nest; some hawks have nearly (or recently) fledged young. Last year Charles County reported a female Hooded Merganser with young! Pay special attention to breeding birds and supply notes to your County Compiler.

Have fun and see lots of birds.

Jim Stasz
State-Wide Coordinator

1983 May Count Coordinators & Compilers

Allegany-Dorethea Malec, 36 Robinhood Dr., LaVale 21502, 729-4936
Anne Arundel-Ellen Gizzarelli, 549 Maple Ridge Lane, Odenton 21113, 674-9501
Baltimore-Mike Resch, 9142 Covered Bridge Rd., Baltimore 21234, 668-6515
Calvert-John Fales, 2809 Ridge Rd., Neeld Estate, Huntington 20639
Caroline-Jerry Fletcher, Rt. 1, Box 201 Denton 21629
Carroll-Bill Ellis, 6012 Snowdens Run Rd., Sykesville 21784, 795-7985
Cecil-Clarke Jeschke, 400 Patleigh Rd., Catonsville, 747-8457
Charles-George Wilmot, 401 Amherst Rd., Bryans Road 20616, 375-8552
Dorchester-Henry Armistead, 28 E. Springfield Ave. Philadelphia PA 19118 215 248-4120 (most weekends) 301 745-2764
Frederick-Charles Mullican, 503 Lee Place, Frederick 21701, 662-1338
Garrett-Fran Pope, 503 F St., Mt. Lake Park 21550, 334-4908
Harford-John Wortman, 110 Springlake Way, Havre De Grace 21078, 939-3146
Howard-Paul Zucker, 12008 Kerwood Rd, Silver Spring 20904, 662-4195
Kent-Jim Gruber, Byfore Court, Chestertown 21620, 778-1976
Montgomery-Dave Mehlman, 1601 E. Jefferson St. Apt. T-3 Rockville, MD 20852, 984-1698
Prince Georges-Robert Patterson, 12601 Buckingham Dr., Bowie 20715, 262-2459
Queen Annes-David Holmes, 5643 Harpers Farm Rd., Columbia 21044, 730-7083
St. Mary's-Ernest Willoughby, 6 Hartman Dr., Lexington Park 20653, 994-0709
Somerset-Charles Vaughn, 1306 Frederick Ave., Salisbury 21801, 742-7221
Talbot-Les Coble, Fox Run, Rt. 1, Box 43-b, Trappe 21673, 476-5106
Washington-Dan Boone, 12123 Dove Circle, Laurel 20708, 776-7597
Wicomico-Charles Vaughn (see Somerset)
Worcester-Peggy Bohanan, 907 Tyson St., Baltimore 21201, 752-3520

MOS Board....

•The MOS continues to grow. Executive Secretary Lettie Cullom reported membership to date is 2120.

•The revised Bylaws and Manual of Operation were approved unanimously. Bylaws Committee chairman Lee Meinersmann rates our congratulations for years of effort, a job well done.

•John Gregoire's definitive report laid the ground rules for the Eagle Committee, a new standing committee of the Society. Two other important new committees are swinging into action. The Atlas Committee will need the support of all MOS members in mapping the distribution of breeding birds in Maryland. Bob Ringler of the Records Committee asks that we send him reports of unusual sightings so they may be studied and documented.

•Conservation chairman Anneke Davis spoke of issues before the Maryland State Legislature. She urged MOS members to voice their approval of the "Chickadee Checkoff," which provided a means of contributing to the support of nongame species via a checkoff box on state tax forms. She expressed opposition to legislation which would change the designation of the Youghiohenny River from "wild and scenic" to merely "scenic," thus making it vulnerable to exploitation.

•John Malcolm and his Nominating Committee announced the slate of officers for next year: President, Marty Chestem; Vice President, Tony White; Treasurer, Richard Cleveland; Secretary, Helen Ford.

•Key members of the Sanctuary and Long-Range Planning Committees met with representatives of the Nature Conservancy to discuss cooperative efforts between our societies. The state Sanctuary Committee continues with a full schedule of events. Work days had been arranged for Irish Grove on April 9, Carey Run April 23, and Mill Creek May 1.

•From 18 worthy candidates, Mildred Gebhard and her committee have selected the recipients of our scholarships. MOS now has a pair of "his" and "hers" scholarships. A new scholarship in ornithology has been developed, named the Eleanor Robbins Scholarship. This

—See page 3

MOS CALENDAR MAY/JUNE 1983

May 1

SUNDAY MORNING BIRD WALK. Talbot. 7:00 a.m. Meet in front of the Courthouse, Easton.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. 7:30 a.m. Pennyfield Lock, C&O Canal. Warblers and other migrants. Meet at the parking lot at end of Pennyfield Lock Road. Leader: Henry Bielstein (292-9592)

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel 7:30 a.m. Sugar Loaf Mountain and Lilypons. Warblers, wood ducks, waders, and wildflowers. Meet at Annapolis Mall commuter parking area, Annapolis. Leader: Marilyn Van Scyoc

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 7:30 a.m. Gunpowder Falls. Meet at Mars Shopping Center, northeast corner Harford and Joppa Roads. Leader: Mike Resch (668-6515)

FIELD TRIP. Howard. 8:00 a.m. Daniels area, Patapsco Pk. Meet at Grempler parking lot, Little Patuxent Pkwy., Columbia. Leader: Mike Leumas (730-1075)

FIELD TRIP. Washington. 1:30 p.m. Indian Springs. Meet at Emma K. Doub School, Rt. 65, ½ mile north of I-70, Hagerstown. Leader: Charles Brightbill.

May 3

TUESDAY EVENING AT CYLBURN. Baltimore. 8:00 p.m. Spring Warblers Workshop with emphasis on song. Cylburn Park Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Avenue, Baltimore.

May 5

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 8:00 a.m. Woodstock. Yellow-throated, Cerulean Warblers. Meet at Towson Plaza parking lot, Dulaney Valley Road and Fairmount Avenue, near self-service Post Office. Leader: Rose Gerringer (825-2175)

MEMBERS NIGHT. Frederick. 7:30 p.m. Bring your slides and stories. Music Room, Frederick High School. Contact: Dave Wallace (662-6753)

May 6

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Woodcock Walk. Meet 6:30 p.m. at Grempler parking lot, Little Patuxent Parkway, Columbia, or 7:00 p.m. at Trotter Road parking area. Leader: Al Geis. More info., contact: Eva Sunell (995-0029)

May 8

SUNDAY MORNING BIRD WALK. Talbot. 7:00 a.m. Meet in front of the Courthouse, Easton.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 7:30 a.m. Glen Artney. Meet at UMBC parking lot on Wilkens Ave., Baltimore. Leader: John Cullom (747-5870)

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. 7:30 a.m. "Adventure" and Bobolinks. Search for bobolinks, followed by demo at banding station. Meet at Safeway in Potomac for carpooling. Leader: Mieke Mehlman (320-3675)

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 7:30 p.m. Woodcock/Whip-Poor-Will trip. Meet at Soldiers Delight Overlook. Leader: Pete Webb (486-3507)

May 9

BOARD MEETING. Baltimore. 8:00 p.m. Cylburn Park Mansion.

May 12

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 8:00 a.m. Loch Raven, Bosley Road. Meet at Towson Plaza parking lot, Dulaney Valley Road and Fairmount Ave., near self-service P.O. Leaders: Rose Gerringer (825-2175) and Erana Lubbert (377-6346)

MEETING. Montgomery. 8:00 p.m. "The Use of Feathers In Law Enforcement" Roxie Laybourne. Chevy Chase Public Library.

May 14

FIELD TRIP. Washington. 7:30 a.m. Catholic Church Road area. Meet at Emma K. Doub School, Rt. 65, ½ mile north of I-70, Hagerstown. Leader: Don Kauffman

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 7:00 a.m. Phoenix Consolation Trip for those not going to the Convention. Meet at Phoenix Rd., Phoenix near intersection with Carroll Rd. Leader: Martin Brazeau (252-0583)

May 15

SUNDAY MORNING BIRD WALK. Talbot. 7:00 a.m. Meet in front of the Courthouse, Easton. Bring picnic breakfast; eat at Mill Creek Sanctuary.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 8:00 a.m. Horsehead Woods. Hooded, Kentucky, and migrant warblers. Meet at McDonald Rd. just west of bridge over Gwynns Falls. Leaders: James Poultney (363-0795), Bob Jarboe (363-1650)

"LEADERLESS TRIP" Montgomery. 7:15 a.m. Consolation trip for those not going to the Convention. Meet whoever shows up; for companionship and warblering. Seneca, C&O Canal.

May 19

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore/Natural History Society. 8:00 a.m. Madonna Rd. Area, nesting Scarlet Tanagers, Orioles. Cancelled if raining. Meet at Towson Plaza parking lot, Dulaney Valley Rd. and Fairmount Ave. near self-service P.O., Towson. Bring lunch. Leader: Rose Gerringer (825-2175)

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. 6:30 p.m. Spring migrants by evening and mating flight of American Woodcock. Meet at Anne Arundel Community Coll. pkg. lot. Leader: Gary VanVelsir (647-9513)

May 21

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 7:00 a.m. Newark Farms. Nesting Scarlet Tanagers, Orioles in N. Harford Co. Meet at Towson Plaza parking lot, Dulaney Valley Rd., Fairmount Ave., near self-service P.O. Bring lunch. Leader: Dennis Kirkwood. Coordinator: Pete Webb (486-3507)

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. 7:30 a.m. Ellen's Goodie Trip. A perennial favorite for warblers, tanagers, cuckoos, thrushes, et al. Meet at Annapolis Mall commuter parking area. Leader: Ellen Gizzarelli (674-9501)

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. 7:30 a.m. Chincoteague NWR. Shorebirds in breeding plumage. Meet at Visitor's Center. Expect to walk to Fishing Point (5 miles round trip). Limit 20 people. Leader: Claudia Wilds (333-5769)

FIELD TRIP. Frederick. 7:30 a.m. Braddock Heights. Meet at the Culler Lake Boat House, Frederick. Contact: Dave Wallace (662-6753)

May 21 & 22

WEEKEND FIELD TRIP. Washington. Fairview Outdoor School, Clear Spring, MD. Bird listing and nature study with guided field trips in the Center and to State and Federal parks in the area. May 21, 6:00 a.m.-Early morning walk at the Center; 7:30 a.m.-Registration at the Admin. Bldg. Chairman: Mary Corderman.

May 22

SUNDAY MORNING BIRD WALK. Talbot. 7:00 a.m. Tuckahoe State Park. Meet in front of the courthouse, Easton. Leader: Terry Allen.

LEADERLESS TRIP. Montgomery. 7:15 a.m. Meet whoever shows up. Seneca, C & O Canal.

CYLBURN OPEN HOUSE & GUIDED TRAIL WALKS. 2:00 p.m. Cylburn Park Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 7:30 a.m. Woodstock. Meet at Old Court Road bridge across Patapsco, 5-½ miles w. of Liberty Rd. Rubber boots useful if trail is wet. Leader: Pete Webb (486-3507)

May 23

MEETING. Wicomico. 7:30 p.m. "Bird Profile"-Maureen McAllister. Amateur Night. Meet at Asbury United Methodist Church, Camden Avenue Extended, Salisbury.

May 24

MEETING. Patuxent. 7:45 p.m. St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 6th and Main Streets, Laurel.

May 26

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. 8:00 a.m. Prettyboy Area. Nesting cliff swallows, Cerulean and Blue-winged warblers. Meet at Mt. Carmel Road parking lot, w. of I-83 Interchange, Exit 27. Leader: Haven Kolb (374-9486)

May 28

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. 7:30 a.m. Annapolis Reservoir. Late spring migrants, nesting summer residents. Meet at Annapolis Mall commuter parking area. Leader: Dotty Mumford (849-8336)

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. 7:30 a.m. Uniontown area. Meet at McDonald's pkg. lot across from Rt. 140 Shopping Ctr., Westminster. Leader: Beulah Zander. (635-2314)

Remembrance Of Convention '82

By Lola Oberman

You have to get to the Convention early if you want your choice of field trips. We had learned that. We had learned, too, that trips led by Chan Robbins are quickly filled. By 4:00 p.m. Friday, there was already a long list signed up for his Pocomoke Swamp trip, but luckily there was still room for Ted and me.

It was a large enthusiastic group that followed Chan into Pocomoke, with high hopes of seeing a Swainson's warbler. Very quickly, we heard its song, far back in the swamp. Our leader counseled patience. We would not risk disturbing the bird by playing tapes. We would wait quietly by the roadside and hope it would come closer.

Meanwhile, we would enjoy what was at hand. Anyone who has birded with Chan knows that he has a very democratic attitude toward birds, never ignoring the common species while pursuing rarities. A red-eyed vireo was singing, and Chan encouraged the group to search it out. When it was located, he trained the spotting scope on it and everyone took turns looking.

Ted took his turn and wandered on, noticing a group of birders across the road whose confident manner and license tags identified them as New Yorkers. He greeted them in his usual disarming way.

"You look like a bunch of hot-shot birders," he said. "Have you seen the Swainson's warbler?"

Indeed, they had; who could expect otherwise? They were glad to tell him from what vantage point they had seen it, and for how long.

All the while, their spokesman had his eye on the MOS group across the road, gazing intently through binoculars and taking turns at the scope.

"What are they looking at?" he wondered.

"Oh, they're looking at a red-eyed vireo," Ted explained.

The New Yorkers exchanged glances of amused superiority. Their leader shrugged. "Oh, well, I guess you've got to start *somewhere*," he condescended.

Just as he spoke, Chan turned around, giving the New Yorkers a full-face view. Clearly, they all recognized him at once. Ted could tell by the way their jaws dropped.

Chan never knew the effect he had on the hot-shot birders from New York. But for Ted, it was the highlight of the Convention.

Revised MOS Bylaws

The revised Bylaws of MOS will be available for distribution after the Convention. Write for copies to:
Lettie Cullom,
Executive Secretary MOS
437 Paradise Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21228

-Lee Meinersmann

"Adopt a Wetland" Program. The Maryland Wetlands Committee, in cooperation with Maryland Save Our Streams, is establishing a wetland awareness program to broaden citizen participation in protection of tidal and non-tidal wetlands. Activities will include field identification, mapping, and inventories of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, including comparative studies with the recently issued Fish and Wildlife wetlands inventory. Ideally, this program will become an ongoing effort that will enable individuals to "adopt" or monitor wetlands in areas where they may work, live, and recreate. Contact: The Maryland Wetlands Committee, 416 Edgemere Drive, Annapolis, MD 21403 or Richard Klein at Save Our Streams, (301) 269-3933.

National Wetlands Newsletter

Weekend at Fairview Outdoor School May 21-22, 1983

The weekend offers a fine opportunity for bird listing and nature study spring migration. The Center and nearby areas contain woodland, meadows, ponds, lakes, swamps, canal and river habitats where 111 species of birds were observed during a similar weekend last year. Scheduled activities will include field trips to state and Federal preserves, but easy trails in the mountainside area of the Center also provide birding opportunities.

Trip leaders include Dan Boone, Bob Keedy, Cam Lewis, Bob Ringler, Doris Warfield and Harold Winger.

The Fairview Outdoor Education Center is owned and operated by the Washington County Board of Education.

Activities will begin at 6 a.m. Saturday with a walk in the Center.

Check-in is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. in the Administration Building.

Breakfast will be served at 8:00 a.m. in the Dining Hall.

Fees are $25./person for the weekend for bird club members and their families; or $30, if not a member of an active bird club. This fee includes five family-style hot meals and dormitory sleeping quarters. Individuals must supply their own bedding and towels. Those not wishing to spend the night in the dorm may join us for daytime and purchase meals only. Call for further details.

Send your reservations (and advance payment) early! Arrangements must be made by May 7, 1983. Make checks payable to "W.C.O.S." Mail with form to:
Mrs. Roscoe Corderman
Rte. 2, Box 351
Smithsburg, MD 21783 (phone: 301-824-2181)

Washington County MOS Weekend
at Fairview Center, Clear Spring, MD
May 21-22, 1983

Name.....

Address.....

.....

No. of persons .....

Amount sent .....

MOS Board....

will complement the Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship now offered. The lucky winners will attend a workshop at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

•At the Executive Council meeting which followed, the proposed budget for next year was reviewed. Chuck Mason, Budget Committee chairman, will present it for approval at the Board meeting in May.

This was the last meeting of the 1982-83 season for this Board of Directors. We thank them for their diligent guardianship of the Society this past year, and look forward to working with the new Board which takes over at convention time.

Helen Ford, MOS Secretary

Junior Nature Camp June 17-19, 1983

The Junior Nature Camp for 1983 will be held on the weekend, June 17-19 at Hashawa, in northern Carroll County near Westminster, MD. We will have this beautiful environmental appreciation area all to ourselves at that time, allowing us to accommodate up to 75 campers and about 45 leaders.

Some of the staff members have signed up already, and the weekend is shaping up as better than ever. Among the many subjects to be covered in lab and field work will be Birds (of course), Spiders (my favorite), Reptiles and Amphibians, Ecology, Botany, Water Life, Fossils, Nature Art, and many more. We are sure that each camper will find plenty of subjects to suit his or her taste.

The Junior Nature Camp is open to interested and qualified young people from the third to the ninth grade. Provision has been made for us older types, both Junior Leaders (10th-12th grades or so) and Leaders of Senior Status. There may even be a few Leader Emeriti with us, and all leaders will be just as eager to pass on their knowledge and interest as the campers will be to absorb it all.

Since these dates are often forgotten or mistaken, why not mark them down now and plan to be with us this year, chasing butterflies, black rat snakes and Tasmanian three-toed bullfinches through the fields and forest of Camp Hashawa?

For more details and application forms, write to me (John Robinson) at 1028 Harkins Road, Pylesville, MD 21132. In the meantime, here's hoping for a pleasant spring and a terrific migration!

John Robinson, Director (692-5673)
1983 Junior Nature Camp

Twenty-five Years of Anonymity

The MOS tradition of awarding scholarships to Audubon Camps began 25 years ago, following the death of Helen Burns Miller, a much-loved member of the Allegany chapter, who was very active in nature study programs with young people. This much has been known, but the Helen Miller Scholarship Fund has seemed shrouded in mystery. No MOS members have seemed able to recall how it was set up. Nothing about it appears in our minutes; it just existed.

Asked by our Board of Directors to review the structure of the Helen Miller Fund, the deep and clearly audible frustration of your Scholarship Committee finally led to a sympathetic disclosure by the founders of our scholarship program.

Twenty-five years ago, Chan and Eleanor Robbins gave to MOS the money for attending an Audubon Summer Workshop, asking MOS to call it the Helen Miller Scholarship and to award it to someone active in nature study with young people. *Everyone who knew was sworn to secrecy.* They did this for some years. Then a scholarship fund was set up, accepting contributions but using only the interest from the fund to pay for the scholarship. Interest rates were low, and the fund grew slowly. Year after year, the Robbinses supplemented the interest to provide first one, and then a second scholarship until both were financially self-sufficient.

Chan and Eleanor Robbins are the founders, the sustainers through lean years, and the current and continuously strong supporters of our scholarship program, and those who knew were silent-for 25 years.

Nineteen eighty-three marks the 25th anniversary of Helen Miller's death and the beginning of our MOS scholarship program. We plan to celebrate this anniversary by honoring our founders and expanding our recently-developed program for providing training in ornithology (the Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship). There is strong and increasing demand for this scholarship. A second scholarship has been funded for this year by contributions from our officers and members of our Board of Directors.

A scholarship fund drive will begin shortly and continue until we have sufficient funds to support (by interest) a second ornithology scholarship, to be known as the Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship. Details will be provided at a later date. Please support our drive as individuals and as chapters. Help us celebrate this 25th anniversary of the MOS Scholarship Program! Help us to develop our magnificent program for honoring and training those who, in turn, pass on their knowledge to others in the study of nature and the study of birds.

-The MOS Scholarship Committee

Peregrine Falcons in Baltimore

The Peregrine Fund and The United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company have been cooperating in a project to provide support for "Scarlett," the Peregrine Falcon, nesting on the U.S.F. & G. building in downtown Baltimore. Several potential mates of Scarlett, and one of her young, have been found dead due to strychnine poisoning. Jack Barclay of the Peregrine Fund and John Barber of U.S.F. & G. and MOS have put together the notice that will be prominently displayed around Baltimore.

Through this notice, and publicity supporting it, The Peregrine Fund and U.S.F. & G. hope to prevent further falcon poisonings. We urge all MOS members to be alert for instances of strychnine poisoning, to report the users to Maryland Wildlife Administration authorities, and to notify John Barber at U.S.F. & G.

-John C. Barber

Attention

Baltimore is the home for a pair of Peregrine Falcons, "Scarlett" who has been living in Baltimore since 1978 and "Ashley" who was released as a mate for her in 1982. Peregrines used to nest in the eastern U.S. and even in some eastern cities until their numbers declined during the 1950's because of DDT contamination. Biologists have been releasing young peregrines in an effort to reestablish this magnificent bird and Scarlett and Ashley are the products of this work. Over the past three years, three peregrines have been found dead in Baltimore from strychnine poisoning. Peregrines prey on other birds such as pigeons and starlings. The falcons died after feeding on pigeons that had eaten poisoned grain. The use of strychnine to control pigeons is prohibited by Maryland law. There are other ways to control pigeons besides strychnine and they can be used without harming peregrines or other animals. Most residents of Baltimore are very proud of the fact that these falcons have selected this city as their home. Everyone concerned about the falcons asks that anyone knowing of the use of strychnine to control pigeons in Baltimore please ask those using it to stop and change to other methods that will not jeopardize the lives of the peregrines.

FIELD TRIP. Wicomico. 7:30 a.m. Nassawango Creek trip led by Sam Dyke, forester for Glatfelder Pulpwood Co. Meet in N. pkg. area of Asbury United Methodist Church, Camden Ave. Extended, Salisbury.

May 28 & 29

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Garrett County. Stay overnight at Carey Run Sanctuary. For info and reservation, call Bob Ringler (655-5738)

May 29

LEADERLESS TRIP. Montgomery. 7:15 a.m. Meet whoever shows up. Seneca, C&O Canal.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot Co. 7:00 a.m. Little Creek Refuge Area. Leader: Dick Kleen. Bring lunch. Restaurant stop on return trip. Meet in front of Courthouse, Easton.

June 3

PICNIC. Kent. Annual picnic. Location to be announced.

June 3, 4 and 5

WEEKEND TRIP TO CAREY RUN. Talbot. Leader: Les Coble. Call Les one week ahead for details and carpooling (476-5106)

June 4

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. 7:00 a.m. Piney Run Park Walk. Meet at Piney Run Pk. at gravel pkg. lot on left inside pk. Contact: Jerry Newton (795-0664)

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Brigantine NWR for special shorebirds and waterfowl in New Jersey. Coordinator: Bob Ringler (655-5738)

PICNIC. Anne Arundel. 4:30 p.m. Potluck supper and final reports. Bring dish and beverage. Chesapeake Environmental Research Ctr. Edgewater.

June 11

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. 7:00 a.m. Monocacy River Canoe Trip. Meet at McDonalds pkg. lot across from Rt. 140 Shopping Ctr., Westminster. Leader: Nathan Webb (848-7898)

PICNIC. Allegany. 9:00 a.m. Carey Run Clean-up Day. Contact: Claire Hanis (814-458-2624)

June 11 & 12

FIELD TRIP. Anne Arundel. Carey Run Sanctuary. Bonus trip for golden-winged warblers. Coordinator: Marilyn VanScyoc.

June 13

BOARD MEETING. Baltimore. 8:00 p.m. Cylburn Park Mansion.

June 17-19

JUNIOR NATURE CAMP. Baltimore. Held for 75 children, third grade or above, who have a real interest in natural history. Leader: John Robinson (692-5673)

June 25

PICNIC. Baltimore. 4:00 p.m. All Saints Convent, Catonsville; End of Hilton Ave. Park at circular drive in front of main bldg. to see Sister Barbara Ann's bluebirds. Coordinator: Pete Webb (486-3507)

June 26

CYLBURN OPEN HOUSE & GUIDED TRAIL WALKS. Baltimore. 2:00 p.m. Cylburn Park Mansion.

June 28

MEETING. Patuxent. 7:45 p.m. St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 6th and Main Streets, Laurel.

July 9-10

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Chincoteague Weekend. Coordinator: Bob Ringler (655-5738)

August 13

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Bombay Hook & Little Creek. 7:00 a.m. at Security Square Mall; meet near Equitable drive-in bank, or at Bombay Hook NWR Visitors' Center at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch. Special shorebirds, herons, bitterns. Leader Jim Stasz. Coordinator: Pete Webb (486-3507)

All Chapter activities to be published in the Calendar columns of the September/October issue of the *Maryland Yellowthroat*, should be received by July 25, 1983. Mail to:

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